



COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

SCHOOLS

School Facilities



There are seven (7) school districts within Centre County (Bald Eagle, Bellefonte, Keystone Central, Penns

Valley, Philipsburg-Osceola, State College, and Tyrone). Tyrone is the only school district that has all of its facilities located outside of the County, Keystone Central maintains the Liberty- Curtin Elementary School in Blanchard.

From a Centre County Planning perspective, the Bellefonte, Penns Valley, Philipsburg-Osceola, and State College School Districts match the boundaries of four (4) of the seven (7) identified Centre County Planning Regions. The Bald Eagle School District (which is the largest school district in the County) encompasses the three (3) remaining planning regions. The only exceptions being Curtin and Liberty Townships which are part of the Keystone Central School District and Taylor Township which is part of the Tyrone School District.

Since 1990, all of the school districts have been involved in facilities planning and development activities. Because of the relatively good economic conditions in Centre County within the past 10 years, all of the school districts have made a concerted effort to maintain as many existing facilities as possible. The state-wide trend of school districts consolidating elementary schools into a large centralized complex has been avoided to a large extent in Centre County. Tyrone Area is the only school district that has recently consolidated all four (4) of its elementary schools into a central campus area with the high school.

Retaining school facilities within the smaller communities and neighborhoods of Centre County is critical if the municipalities and their residents desire to maintain the social, cultural, and historic environment in which

they live for the future generations.

Bellefonte Area School District

School Enrollment - 3,040+ students

School District Land Area - 115 square miles



Figure 1: Marion Walker Elementary School
(Source: BASD Website)

Municipalities - Bellefonte Borough, Benner, Spring, Walker, and Marion Townships

School Facilities -

Bellefonte High School
Bellefonte Middle School
Bellefonte Elementary School
Benner Township Elementary School
Marion-Walker Elementary School
Pleasant Gap Elementary School

US Census 2000 - Bellefonte School District

| Age | 1990 | 2000 |
|--------------|------|------|
| Under 5 yrs. | 1317 | 1202 |
| 5 – 9 yrs. | 1240 | 1360 |
| 10 – 14 yrs. | 1092 | 1364 |
| 15 – 19 yrs. | 1164 | 1185 |

Bellefonte Area School District is currently developing a Strategic Plan to evaluate its existing school buildings. Options in the plan include upgrades to the existing High School or replacing the existing High School with a new facility. Depending upon the selected option, issues such as site location, cost, and reuse of the existing facility must be

addressed.

In addition to the High School, the other focus of the Strategic Plan will be on the Elementary Schools. With Elementary Schools in Benner Township along Route 550, Pleasant Gap along Route 144, Bellefonte along Linn Street/ Route 144, and Marion-Walker in Hublersburg along Hublersburg Road off of Route 64 the District has good geographic coverage based on the location of the residents.



Figure 2: Bellefonte Elementary School
(Source: BASD Website)

The Marion-Walker Elementary School is currently experiencing over-crowding and renovations to this school or constructing a new facility have been discussed. Redistricting of all the Elementary Schools is also being considered as an option to alleviate the overcrowding situation. Cross-district redistribution of students should also be considered – sending students from Marion Township to the nearby Howard Elementary School (Bald Eagle District) where there is capacity to accommodate additional students.

The PA Economy League completed an enrollment study in 2000 that shows a decline in elementary student enrollment over the next five years with increases in the middle and high school levels. Long term projections (2006-10) from the PEL study indicate an overall decrease in student population. These projections were determined from birth rates in recent years as well as housing information. Current population projections show that increases should be expected into the next ten years. This increase is due mainly to in-migration from new housing

with the extended sewer service areas and ease of access to employment with the opening of I-99.

Concerns have also been expressed from the School Administration about possible tax increases that would shift development and population out the School District. This shift it is believed would further exacerbate the projected decline as shown in the PEL study.

Retention of the existing High School and Elementary Schools is recommended. Planned renovations should include the High School and the Marion- Walker Elementary School. If the District decides to construct a new elementary School facility, the best location would be in the Zion area where increased residential development is expected. Maintaining Elementary Schools within the local communities is strongly recommended. The Elementary Schools in Bellefonte, Pleasant Gap, Hublersburg, and Benner Township serve as social and cultural gathering places for the local neighborhoods; retention of these facilities will also encourage future growth to locate in areas adjacent to them.

Bald Eagle Area School District

Student Enrollment - 1,069 students

School District Land Area - 343 square miles

Municipalities - Howard, Milesburg, Port Matilda, Snow Shoe, and Unionville Boroughs; Boggs, Burnside, Howard, Huston, Snow Shoe, Worth, and Unionville Townships

School Facilities -
Bald Eagle Area High School
Howard Elementary School
Mountaintop Area Elementary School
Port Matilda Elementary School
Wingate Elementary School

US Census 2000 – Bald Eagle Area High School

| <u>Age</u> | <u>1990</u> | <u>2000</u> |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Under 5 yrs. | 844 | 748 |
| 5 – 9 yrs. | 899 | 845 |
| 10-14 yrs. | 859 | 937 |
| 15-19 yrs. | 961 | 851 |



Figure 3: Bald Eagle Area School District Graduation (Source: BEASD Website)

In 1990, the Bald Eagle Area School District began renovations to the existing school facilities and completed that work in 1999 with the Port Matilda Elementary School. Although it may have been easier to plan for a consolidated school campus on the 400 acres of property currently owned in Wingate, the School District made a concerted effort to limit consolidation and improve their existing elementary school facilities in Port Matilda, Howard, Snow Shoe (Mountaintop Area) and Wingate. The one exception was the consolidation of the Pine Glen and Snow Shoe Elementary Schools in the Mountaintop Area Elementary School which is currently located in the Borough of Snow Shoe. The School district emphasized the importance that these schools have within the communities as educational, public meeting, recreational, and emergency shelter facilities.

Bald Eagle Area is the largest School District in Centre County in terms of total land area. The Transportation of students to each of the school facilities is and will continue to be an issue in this School District due to traffic on State Route 220.

Conflicts with truck traffic and buses are the major concern. Although roadway improvements, increased enforcement, and traffic calming methods are currently being evaluated, the determining factor in this case will be the completion of I-99. If the majority of truck traffic uses the new highway, the conditions along Route 220 will improve and result in increased safety for the children.

Based on enrollment projections from the School District's Feasibility Study, student enrollment is projected to drop by as much as 17% over the 2004-04 and 2004-05 school years and then rebound to current levels for 2005-06.

An evaluation of US Census 2000 data shows that overall student enrollments for the next ten years are not expected to increase. Most of the expected growth will be from minimal commercial and industrial development near Milesburg and Port Matilda. Residential development will not occur as rapidly as other areas of the County due to public sewer service limitations and poor soil conditions which prevent adequate percolation for on-lot septic systems.

With the recent facility renovations/ upgrades and the decreasing or possibly static enrollment projections, there will be ample capacity at all of the School District's facilities in the future. The lower enrollment figures will be beneficial in terms of the learning environment for the students, particularly the elementary level students, who can attend classes within their respective communities.

Bald Eagle Area's approach is significant because the public facilities, particularly the Elementary Schools, encourage continued growth, investment, and historic/ cultural preservation in the communities within the School District.

Philipsburg – Osceola Area School District

Student Enrollment - 2,400

School District Land Area - 222 square miles in Centre and Clearfield Counties

Municipalities - Centre County –
 Philipsburg, South Philipsburg Boroughs,
 Rush Township; Clearfield County –
 Chester Hill, Osceola Mills, Wallaceton
 Boroughs, Boggs, Decatur Townships

School Facilities

Philipsburg-Osceola High School
 Philipsburg-Osceola Junior High School
 Philipsburg Elementary School
 North Lincoln Hill Elementary School
 Ocea Elementary School
 Wallaceton-Boggs Elementary School

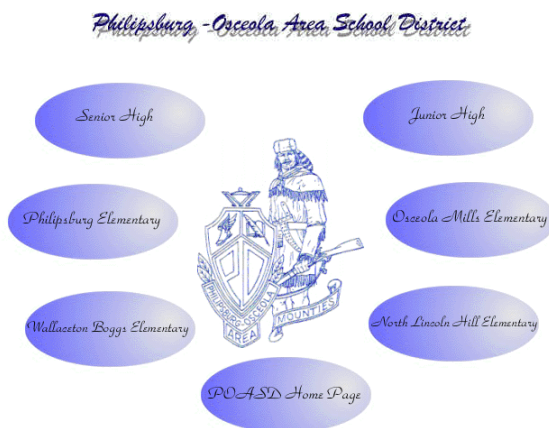


Figure 4: Philipsburg-Osceola Schools
 (Source: POASD Website)

US Census 2000 – Philipsburg-Osceola School District - Centre County

| Age | 1990 | 2000 |
|--------------|------|------|
| Under 5 yrs. | 398 | 382 |
| 5-9 yrs. | 403 | 450 |
| 10-14 yrs. | 421 | 412 |
| 15-19 yrs. | 466 | 402 |

Philipsburg–Osceola School District is in the process of a 6 (six) year facility improvement plan. The School district is preparing plans to develop a new Philipsburg Elementary school that will accommodate approximately 575 students on Windy Hill in Rush Township near Philipsburg. The High School, which was recently renovated, will have ample student capacity for the next 10 to 20

years.

The school district is also considering developing a new Junior High School on land in Clearfield County. The existing Junior High School facility was constructed in the 1930's and is located on 1.5 acres of land in Philipsburg. The overall strategy at the present time is to improve some of the existing structures and then build new structures to replace those that are not economically feasible.

Maintaining and renovating existing school facilities where feasible is recommended for the Philipsburg-Osceola School District. Preserving community character and identity is particularly important for areas where the economic conditions have diminished in recent years. These school facilities provide public meeting and recreational opportunities that may otherwise not be available.

In terms of student enrollment, the school district expects enrollment to increase within 3 (three) to 5 (five) years. This increase is expected at the elementary level and due mainly to the development of the new industrial park and the Cornell prison. Tax revenues generated from these proposed facilities would also benefit the facilities upgrade program.

Based on current and proposed infrastructure (sewer & water) and US Census 2000 data, significant growth is not expected to occur in the next 10 years. Student enrollment will be slightly reduced in the next five (5) years based on the recent Census data. The proposed Corridor O highway project may serve as a catalyst to increase student enrollment but will be developed within the next 20 years.

State College Area School District

Student Enrollment - 7,400

School District Land Area - 151 square miles

Municipalities - State College Borough, College, Ferguson, Halfmoon, Harris, Patton Townships

School Facilities -

State College Area High School - North
 State College Area High School – South
 Mount Nittany Middle School
 Park Forest Middle School
 Corl Street Elementary School
 Easterly Parkway Elementary School
 Ferguson Township Elementary School
 Grays Woods Elementary School
 Houserville Elementary School
 Panorama Elementary School
 Radio Park Elementary School
 Park Forest Elementary School

**US Census 2000 – State College Area
 School District**

| Age | 1990 | 2000 |
|--------------|------|-------|
| Under 5 yrs. | 3363 | 2969 |
| 5-9 yrs. | 2900 | 3192 |
| 10-14 yrs. | 2345 | 3350 |
| 15-19 yrs. | 8387 | 10175 |

Based on recent enrollment projections, there is static growth projected for the district within the next five (5) years. The Census figures show a decline, but may be limited due to the continued growth that the School District is experiencing. Currently, the largest student populations are in the Middle and High School levels.

State College Area School District is currently engaged with school facility developments and renovations. A new elementary school is currently under construction in the Grays Woods neighborhood near Matternville. This elementary school will replace the Matternville School and will reduce overcrowding pressures on the Park Forest School.

Renovations will be made to the following five (5) elementary schools: Corl Street, Houserville, Easterly, Panorama Village, Ferguson, and Radio Park.

The North and South High School facilities are currently planned for renovations and the Park Forest Middle School is currently being renovated. The Mount Nittany

Middle School which was constructed less than 10 years ago should meet the needs in the southern portion of the district in future. The surplus facilities, Boalsburg, Lemont, and Matternville schools have been discontinued and will be sold.



Figure 5: Park Forest Elementary School
 (Source: SCASD Website)

As the largest school district in terms of student enrollment, State College will have to continue to provide multiple school facilities particularly at the elementary level in the surrounding communities and neighborhoods to meet their current and future needs.

Tyrone Area School District

Student Enrollment - 2,180+

School District Land Area - Portions of three (3) Counties, (Blair, Centre, and Huntingdon) – Seven (7) municipalities.

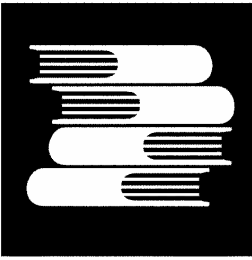
Municipalities - Centre County – Taylor Township - Blair and Huntingdon Counties

School Facilities -

Tyrone Area Middle & High School
 Tyrone Area Elementary School

**US Census 2000 – Tyrone Area School
 District – Centre County**

| Age | 1990 | 2000 |
|--------------|------|------|
| Under 5 yrs. | 38 | 41 |
| 5-9 yrs. | 66 | 51 |
| 10-14 yrs. | 53 | 38 |
| 15-19 yrs. | 51 | 57 |



Following the loss of thousands of dollars in an investment fraud case in the late 1990's, the Tyrone School District has successfully

rebounded and completed upgrades and developed new school facilities. These upgrades include renovations to the High School, and the consolidation of the four elementary schools into a new Kindergarten through 5 Elementary School. A school campus was created where all of the administrative, educational, and extracurricular activities (including a 25-acre sports complex) currently take place. Controversial at the time, this consolidation is consistent with other economically depressed school districts throughout the Commonwealth that have outdated facilities that are expensive to maintain and renovate. The vacant surplus facilities are being considered for affordable public and/ or private multi-family housing. Although the smaller communities lost community educational and gathering places, the adaptive reuse of these structures for housing will also be beneficial.

With the Elementary School consolidation and High School renovations, the school district can accommodate another 200 students if the growth pressures demand the need. However, the school district has not seen growth in the last three years and does not expect growth increases in the foreseeable future. This is illustrated by the fact that the year 2000 kindergarten enrollment is the lowest in 30 years.

Taylor Township is the only Centre County municipality within the Tyrone School District service area and currently sends approximately 200 students to this school district's campus area near Tyrone. Even with the development of I-99, the number of enrolled school students is not expected to increase. Limitations with soil suitability and the lack of public sewer service in Taylor Township will keep the development activity static in near future.

Following the consolidation of the elementary schools, bus service can still be provided with the longest trip taking 50 to 60 minutes from Taylor Township. Bus service to and from Taylor Township, particularly along Route 220, is not a concern with the School District even though some of the rural roads are in need of repair. With the completion of I-99 it is anticipated that the student bus commute times and potential safety hazards will be reduced.

Penns Valley Area School District

Student Enrollment - 1,700+

School District Land Area - 254 square miles

Municipalities - Centre Hall, Millheim Boroughs, Gregg, Haines, Miles, Penn, Potter Townships

School Facilities -
Penns Valley Area High School
Centre Hall-Potter Elementary School
Spring Mills Elementary School
Rebersburg Elementary School
Penns Valley Area Elementary School

US Census 2000 – Penns Valley Area School District

| Age | 1990 | 2000 |
|--------------|------|------|
| Under 5 yrs. | 762 | 785 |
| 5-9 yrs. | 765 | 858 |
| 10-14 yrs. | 753 | 853 |
| 15-19 yrs. | 811 | 803 |

Student enrollment is currently static but may increase within the next 5 years based on the US Census. Overall, the Penns Valley experienced a 7.2% population increase from 1990 to 2000. The largest gain was in Gregg Township where the population increased 17.4 % since 1990. The only decreases were in Centre Hall Borough (-10.3%) and Millheim Borough (-11.6%). The declines in those Boroughs should stabilize and may



Figure 6: Centre Hall-Potter Elementary School (Source: PVASD Website)

regain population because of the addition of public sewer service and the development activity that has recently occurred.

Penns Valley, like the other school districts in Centre County, currently has elementary school facilities located in the smaller communities. The school district is currently in the process of developing a facilities plan for the next five (5) to 10 years. Options considered were elementary school consolidation into a central campus adjacent to the High School, retaining the elementary schools for grades K through 4 and developing a consolidated Middle School adjacent to the High School, and reconstruct and renovate the elementary schools with the exception of the Rebersburg Elementary School which may be closed.



Figure 7: Rebersburg Elementary School (Source: PVASD Website)

With the approval of a bond, the School District is now planning on the development of new elementary school in Centre Hall, renovations and improvements the Penns Valley Elementary School with the possibility of closing the Miles Township/ Rebersburg Elementary School.

Given the increased growth in the Penns Valley from 1990 to 2000, the elementary schools in Centre Hall, Spring Mills, and Rebersburg will experience increased student enrollments. It is recommended that the School District retain all three elementary schools in these communities because they provide more amenities to the residents than just the educational needs of the children. These amenities include public/ recreational use, preserves cultural/ historical values, and promotes continued growth and investment in the respective communities.

Although the proposed closing of an elementary school may bring short term financial relief to the district, the impacts on the smaller communities in the outlying parts of the County will be negative. Property values may decrease, families would either relocate or chose not purchase homes in these communities and locate in areas that promote suburban sprawl.

Property tax implications to school expansions will also be critical. Because Penns Valley is an agricultural based community within the county, a large portion of the land is entered into the Clean and Green program (The PA Farmland and Forest Preservation Act of 1974). This program reduces the tax paid on land of 10 acres or more and has had more of an impact on Penns Valley than other area of the County.

Recent increases in population in the Penns Valley have also occurred for another segment of the population, the Amish. Although these families provide for the children's educational needs with their own teachers and school facilities, the increase in the Amish population reduces overcrowding pressure on the Penns Valley School District.



Another unknown factor that will impact the Penns Valley will be the South Central Centre County Transportation Study that is evaluating options for Routes 322/ 144/ & 45.

Growth, traffic, infrastructure development,

and impacts to public facilities (schools) will result if highway development occurs. The results of this study will not be finalized until 2004.

Of all of the areas in Centre County, Penns Valley has the greatest opportunity to maintain what many consider an idyllic rural community.

Keystone Central School District

Student Enrollment - 5,433

School District Land Area -

Approximately 1,000 square miles -
Largest School District in Pennsylvania

Municipalities - Centre County – Curtin,
Liberty Townships – All of Clinton County

School Facilities -

Central Mountain High School
Bucktail Area High School
Central Mountain Middle School
Keystone Central Area Vo-Tech
Liberty-Curtin Elementary School
Lamar Township Elementary School
McGhee Elementary School
Mill Hall Elementary School
Renovo Elementary School
Robb Elementary School
Dickey Elementary
Sugar Valley Elementary School
Woodward Elementary School

US Census 2000 – Keystone Central School District – Centre County

| Age | 1990 | 2000 |
|--------------|------|------|
| Under 5 yrs. | 174 | 146 |
| 5-9 yrs. | 165 | 164 |
| 10-14 yrs. | 154 | 172 |
| 15-19 yrs. | 159 | 142 |

Keystone Central School District is currently engaged in a fast-tracked facilities study and development schedule for the nine (9) existing elementary schools because of bond money the District is considering borrowing. Options, as part of the study will include renovation of all nine (9) existing schools, consolidation of some or all of them, redistricting for even distribution of students to existing and proposed facilities, etc.

Other issues that must be considered include, bus transportation, increased taxes, and the declining population in Clinton County. Recent industrial/ manufacturing plant closings will increase

unemployment and further reduce student enrollments as families move out the School District and Clinton County. Because Clinton County is a large rural county with a declining population and economic base, the Keystone Central School District will have to continue to provide services over a large area with reduced revenues.

Curtin and Liberty Townships, which are part of the Keystone Central School District, showed modest population growth of 6.8% and 4.8% respectively between 1990 and 2000. Compared with the 1990 Census data, the number of existing and future school age children increased in these Centre County municipalities. From a percentage standpoint there was a decrease in Liberty Township because the overall population increase was greater than the under 5 to 19 population over the same 10 year period.

Perhaps one option that may be considered if the School Districts and municipalities concur would be to redistrict the boundaries between the Keystone Central and Bald Eagle School districts. Keystone Central could reduce its land service area by approximately 7% (66 square miles) and concentrate its efforts in smaller service area. Bald Eagle Area School District, which currently has student capacity in its facilities, would then be able to serve these adjacent Centre County Townships which are close to high School facilities in Wingate.

Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology (CPI)



Figure 7: Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology (Source: CPI Website)

Student Enrollment - 547

Participating School Districts -

Bald Eagle Area, Bellefonte Area
Penns Valley Area

School Facilities -

Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science
and Technology Building located in
Pleasant Gap

CPI, formerly the Centre County
Vocational- Technical School, provides 18
vocational and technical programs and
classes to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade
students from the Bald Eagle, Bellefonte,
and Penns Valley School Districts. CPI
also provides adult education classes and
programs to County residents. As a way to
improve educational services and
opportunities in Centre County, CPI is
pursuing “technical institute” status. This
will allow County residents to obtain two (2)
year associate degrees in various
employment fields.

The main focus for CPI will be the
development of skilled labor to meet the
needs of County employers. CPI is
presently working cooperatively with the
CBICC (Centre County Chamber of
Business and Industry), Centre County
Builders Association, and local businesses
and industry. This cooperative effort will
enable CPI to develop training programs
that meet local employment needs and
help to retain those County businesses.

As the home to Penn State, Centre County
needs to provide an additional and
affordable educational option to the
traditional four (4) year college level
programs offered at University Park.

Over half of the high school graduates in
Centre County attend higher educational
institutes such as colleges and universities.
CPI has the capability to meet the needs of

those students that do not desire a college
degree but require technical training to find
and retain employment within the County.

Continuous involvement between CPI, the
School Districts, local business, and industry
will be important in order to provide the
necessary educational opportunities to the
County residents.

At the present time, CPI is evaluating options
for a facility upgrade to the current building.
No improvements have been made since the
building was constructed in 1968.

Renovations include mechanical systems
such as heating, ventilation, air conditioning,
and lighting. Other modifications include
upgrades to equipment that assist in the
vocational and technical programs.

With the development of an access
interchange to I-99 adjacent to CPI, residents
from all portions of the County and the
surrounding counties will be able to attend
classes within a relatively short period of time.
This ease of access should increase student
enrollment and allow for expanded
educational opportunities at the current CPI
facility.

Community Facilities and Services Goal

Promote the appropriate location and maintenance of existing and proposed community facilities, utilities, and services for the citizens of Centre County

School Facilities Recommendations

Centre County School District Facility Plans and Studies should be reviewed by the Centre County Planning Commission and consistent with the Centre County Comprehensive Plan.

Existing and proposed school facilities should be retained and/ or located within existing communities and developed areas.

Centre County Planning Commission, through the Land Use and Growth Management Plan, should make recommendations to the municipalities and school districts for the appropriate location of new school facilities.

Existing and proposed school district facilities and properties should be utilized for public recreational purposes in order to compliment municipal recreational facilities.

Centre County Planning Commission along with the County-wide MPO (Metropolitan Planning Agency) should consider the transportation needs of school districts to ensure the safe and efficient transport of children to school (roads, sidewalks, and bikeways).

Evaluate and revise the Centre County Clean and Green Program in order to limit ineligible properties that could negatively impact tax revenues to the school districts.